

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article in which an absorbent body intervenes between a liquid permeable front sheet and a back sheet, and a middle-height portion is provided by thickening a front surface of an approximately center area of the absorbent body with respect to a standard portion absorbent body, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising:

leakage preventing grooves, extending ~~which extend~~ to a longitudinal direction of the absorbent article, said grooves being ~~are~~ provided on both sides which sandwich a body fluid discharge portion area in the area of the middle-height portion, respectively.

2. (Original) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the leakage preventing grooves are deeper than a thickness of the middle-height portion and reach the standard portion absorbent body.

3. (Original) The absorbent article according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein a thinned portion obtained by thinning the middle-height portion by press is formed on outsides of the leakage preventing grooves.

4. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to any one of claims 1 to 2[[3]], wherein the middle-height portion is formed between front and rear folding line positions for folding the absorbent article in three at the time of individual packaging.

5. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to any one of claims 1 to 2[[4]], wherein a thickness of the standard portion absorbent body is 1 to 3 mm.